

Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Monday, April 26, 2021

Board President Rick Paisley called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Administrators present: Superintendent Jeff Arzt, 7-12 Principal Rick Dobbs, ECH-6th Gr. Principal Corey Peterson & Finance Administrator Casey Pfaff. Board Members present: Becky Whalen, Jodi Anderson, Kim Sacia, Terry Blaken, Kathy Dunn & Shane Zeman. All who were present then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Kathy Dunn and Becky Whalen were sworn in as members of the school board. They were re-elected at the April 6, 2021 Spring Election. The election of officers then took place with Rick Paisley elected as Board President, Shane Zeman as Vice-President, Kathy Dunn as Board Clerk and Becky Whalen as Board Treasurer.

Motion by Sacia, second by Dunn to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Correspondence: Thank you cards were received from Clark Anderson & Joe & Heidi Jotham. Clark's dad, Steve Anderson, passed away and the Jotham's thanked the board members, staff, students and community for their support after their recent house fire. Their daughter, Regan, is a student at school.

Administrator's Report: Approximately 71% of our staff members have received the full series of the COVID vaccine with 7% receiving one dose as of today's date.

Thank you to Mr. Dobbs and the prom advisors Jim Briggs, Brenda Chamberlain, Laura Aleckson and Erik Hanson for a great job planning and executing Prom this year. It was a positive experience and combined for last year and current year juniors.

The district received the final amount totals for both ESSER II and ESSER III monies. ESSER II funds are required to be spent prior to September 30, 2021 while ESSER III funds need to be spent by September 30, 2024. This is one time funding from the federal government with guidelines and restrictions as to how the money may be spent. We still need our state legislators to step up and provide predictable, long term funding for our school districts, especially in the area of special education funding. The goal is to get back to 67% funding level for this area. New staff hired specifically with ESSER money will have a contract that will have a non-renew clause.

Health insurance renewal rates came back -4.5% over last year's rates. This is a very nice surprise and the district is appreciative of all the hard work our insurance broker did for us. Dental rates will see a zero percent increase over last year.

Congratulations to our new business education and DECA advisor Allison Rigotti. She was named the 'New DECA Advisor of the Year'. Ms. Rigotti has been an excellent addition to the Mustang family.

The district received two Boe Bot Robots from retiring Western Technical electrical teacher John Burman. We have worked with Mr. Burman since beginning our robotic program over 10 years ago.

The Music department has started planning a trip for band and choir students for next April. The plan is to visit Disneyworld in Orlando. They have typically gone to New York but felt it would be difficult to predict what will be open due to COVID.

A public hearing was held last week referring to Senate Bill 182. This would provide school districts more control over when the school year would start. Also, the DPI received approval from the US Dept. of Education for a waiver from accountability provisions under ESEA.

Fund 49 projects are moving along and are scheduled for completion before the end of June 2021. Market & Johnson gave the district a check for almost \$867 for the scrapping of the old auditorium seats.

Open Forum: After 43 years with the district, Mr. Randy Ebert is retiring at the end of the 20-21 school year. He spoke briefly and thanked the current & past board members for providing a truly warm and inviting environment to teach. He has had many of the board members as students at one point in his career and is excited to have the time to enjoy other pursuits.

Finance: Review of the expenditures and receipts through March. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$1,039,183.53. Motion carried 6-0.

Other Business:

1. Motion by Whalen second by Blaken to accept the generous donations from Rural Mutual Insurance agent Matt Rhodes (\$1,500 for Ag Dept) and Sue Hewines (\$5,000 for DECA). Motion carried 6-0.
2. Motion by Zeman, second by Dunn to change the last day for students from June 1, 2021 to May 29, 2021. Motion carried 6-0.
3. Motion by Whalen, second by Zeman to allow more than one early release day for spring sports. Motion carried 6-0. Athletes would get out 10-15 minutes early to allow for travel and warm-up prior to competitions.
4. Mr. Peterson provided the annual update for emergency drills. These drills were conducted earlier in the month.
5. Motion by Sacia, second by Whalen to allow the district to purchase one or more school bus as funding permits. Motion carried 6-0.
6. Motion by Blaken, second by Sacia to approve Bridging Brighter Smiles agreement for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried 6-0.
7. Motion by Zeman, second by Dunn to add a part time(50%) school psychologist to the CESA 4 21-22 contract. Motion carried 6-0.
8. Motion by Dunn, second by Anderson to approve two days unpaid leave request for Joey Arneson in November 2021. Motion carried 6-0.
9. Motion by Whalen, second by Blaken to approve the following professional, support and coaching staff retirements & resignations: 7-12th Gr. Guidance Counselor Kay Ciechanowski , 9-12th Gr Social Studies teacher/Academic Decathlon Advisor Randy Ebert; 1st Gr. teacher Gloria Gregor; 4th Gr. Teacher Kristin Mack-Johnson; JH/HS Secretary, Athletic Director, Web Designer Connie Craig; 7/8th Gr. Science teacher Emily Lash; Lead Custodian John Shramek and Head Girls Basketball coach Joey Arneson. Motion carried 6-0.
10. Motion by Dunn, second by Sacia to hire Rob Sbraggia and Brian Schlifer as assistant baseball coaches and Dave Waraxa as head volleyball coach. Courtney Ratkus will transfer from C-Team volleyball coach to JV volleyball coach. Motion carried 6-0.
11. Motion by Sacia, second by Anderson to hire the following professional & support staff positions: Food Service Jessica Kneifl; JH/HS Secretary, Athletic Director & Web Designer Heather Young; Title 1 Math Jill Pedretti and Lindsay Rozek transferring from Special Education teacher to Title 1 Reading teacher. Motion carried 6-0.
12. Motion by Zeman, second by Whalen to open an activity account for the fishing team. Motion carried 6-0.
13. Motion by Sacia, second by Zeman to hire the water safety instructors and lifeguards for the 2021 season. Jordan Paisley and Abby Aasen as head guards. The pool did not open for the 2020 season, so rate of pay will carry over to the 2021 season. (Per 4-27-2020 board minutes). Motion carried 6-0.
14. Motion by Dunn, second by Sacia to appoint Jodi Anderson as the CESA 4 Annual Convention representative. Motion carried 6-0.
15. Motion by Zeman second by roll call vote to adjourn to Executive Session 19.85 1(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or evaluation of personnel at 8:00 p.m.
16. Motion by Sacia, second by Blaken to reconvene to Open Session at 8:40 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.
17. Motion by Whalen, second by Anderson to move the district nurse to a full time, benefit eligible position beginning July 1, 2021. Motion carried 6-0.

18. Motion by Sacia, second by Dunn to approve the 2021-2022 Salary Schedule as presented. Motion carried 5-0, with Blaken abstaining.
19. Motion by Dunn, second by Zeman to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Michelle Murray
Recorder of Minutes